NPT/CONF.2015/9

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
26 February 2015

Original: English

New York, 27 April-22 May 2015

Implementation of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Ireland

Introduction

1. Pursuant to action 20 of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Ireland is submitting the present summary report. The report is within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty and relates to the implementation of the action plan, as well as to article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament". It is also related to the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 in that regard.

2. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to pursue nuclear disarmament.

3. Ireland underscores, and keeps at the forefront of all its policy considerations, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, as highlighted in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. At the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held in September 2013, the then Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Eamon Gilmore, noted that the inclusion of that reference to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons offered a powerful means by which to reframe the entire debate about nuclear weapons and return to first principles. We must at all costs prevent the proliferation of those inhumane weapons and press for complete nuclear disarmament. We believe that the humanitarian imperative for nuclear disarmament is written into the DNA of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ireland has consistently worked with like-minded States to deliver joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament in successive

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meetings pertaining to the Treaty and of the First Committee. In 2013 and 2014, Ireland actively participated in the international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons held in Norway, Mexico and, most recently, Austria. Ireland provided funding to support the conference held in Mexico, specifically for the participation of a number of least developed States parties to the Treaty. We also provided funding for the participation of least developed States parties in the conference held in Austria and for the organization of a civil society forum in advance of the conference.

Nuclear disarmament (actions 1-22)

4. Ireland notes its strong commitment to the principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament agreed upon by the 2010 Review Conference. It has pursued policies that are fully compatible with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons and welcomed the agreement by the 2010 Review Conference on the action plan, which included concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. With regard to the Conference on Disarmament, Ireland notes the central role that the Conference has played in promoting the rule of law in disarmament, in particular its achievements, including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Despite those achievements, however, the Conference has been in stalemate for a long time. Ireland agrees that the Conference should immediately begin to discuss effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Ireland, represented by the then Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, participated in the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in 2010. He noted our regret that the Conference had not engaged in substantive work for more than a decade and called for the negotiation of a treaty on fissile material that should include a verification mechanism and cover existing stocks. Ireland welcomed the decision by the General Assembly in 2012 to establish two new mechanisms to facilitate discussions on topics that the Conference had been unable to take forward. Ireland formally submitted a position paper to the group of governmental experts tasked with making recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein and actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, which adopted its report by consensus in August 2013. Ireland hopes that the nuclear-weapon States will engage with the process and consider constructively the list of options produced by the Working Group for taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

6. Ireland has always been a strong supporter of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. By prohibiting all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, the Treaty will impede the development and qualitative

improvement of nuclear weapons. Ireland signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 1999. At the most recent Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in September 2013, the then Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore, repeated our call upon those Annex 2 States, whose ratification was required before the Treaty could enter into force, to sign and ratify it without further delay. Ireland believes that the entry into force of the Treaty will significantly strengthen the international security architecture built on the foundations of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and will represent an important step along the path to a world without nuclear weapons. Ireland commends the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for its excellent work in building up the international monitoring system in anticipation of the Treaty's entry into force. This enables the Preparatory Commission to verify compliance with the Treaty on a global basis. The interpretation of data will be at the core of the verification system, and Ireland participates fully in the exchange of data with the International Data Centre in Vienna through our own national data centre based in Dublin. In 2014, additional funding was provided to the national data centre in order to upgrade its systems to the standards of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

7. Action 9 of the 2010 action plan encourages the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, and in accordance with the 1999 Guidelines of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted a resolution on the Middle East in which it called for the establishment of an effectively viable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems. Ireland sees progress on that resolution as a key objective and, at the 2010 Review Conference, brokered agreement on a text emphasizing the importance of a process leading to the full implementation of the resolution and setting out a number of practical steps, including the convening of a conference in 2012. Ireland is disappointed that the conference could not be convened to date and is supportive of continuing international efforts, in particular those of the conference facilitator and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Security Policy of Finland, Jaakko Laajava, to convene a conference on the issue at the earliest possible opportunity.

8. Ireland recognizes the importance of cooperation between Governments, the United Nations, national and regional organizations and civil society. An amount of €50,000 was granted to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research by Ireland to conduct a research project on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and understanding United Nations coordination and response. The aim of the project is to contribute to a fact-based understanding of the consequences of a variety of scenarios involving a nuclear detonation and the obstacles to any United Nations-coordinated international response. Ireland has also provided support to the Institute's *Disarmament Forum* publication, which offers in-depth and up-to-date information and analysis in the areas of security and disarmament.

9. Cooperation with civil society in the disarmament and non-proliferation sphere is vitally important to facilitating informed discussion on the subject and to providing valuable monitoring of disarmament negotiations for international stakeholders. Ireland has a long-standing cooperative relationship with Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

in particular. Ireland has provided funding to that organization since 2006 and regularly engages actively with it, including at international disarmament forums such as the Review Conferences, the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament.

10. Action 22 of the 2010 action plan encourages all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124) regarding the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in order to advance the goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In March 2014, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, in conjunction with University College Cork and the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, hosted a major disarmament and non-proliferation education symposium entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation: historical perspectives and future objectives". It brought together policymakers, academics, members of the Defence Forces and human rights advocates to consider historical and current disarmament issues. An atomic bomb survivor (hibakusha), Setsuko Thurlow, was present and provided a personal account of her experience, which added greatly to the educational impact of the symposium. She also visited and spoke at a number of schools. The symposium was attended by diplomatic officials, members of civil society, academics and second-level and third-level students. Ireland attaches great importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education as a means of advancing the goals of the Treaty. Arising from the symposium, a number of papers by Irish and international academics on disarmament and non-proliferation issues were published in the journal *Irish Studies in International Affairs*.

11. Ireland has also provided financial support to Atomic Reporters for a series of workshops involving senior journalists from countries of the Middle East reporting on nuclear issues. Atomic Reporters provides much-needed resources for journalists reporting on nuclear proliferation, the safety of nuclear power, security and other related topics. The goal of the workshops is to educate and raise awareness of nuclear disarmament issues, non-proliferation and proposals for a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23-46)

12. Ireland has consistently supported efforts to promote the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The status of Ireland as a non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty is also confirmed by the comprehensive system of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, which has continued to assure the international community of the compliance of Ireland with its obligations under the Treaty.

13. Ireland supports the call by previous Review Conferences for the application of IAEA comprehensive safeguards to all source or special fissionable material in all peaceful nuclear activities in the States parties in accordance with the provisions of article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ireland has had a safeguards agreement in force since 1977 and brought into force an additional protocol in 2004. Ireland continues to urge States parties to the Treaty that have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements to do so as soon as possible.

14. Ireland has been involved in the enhancement and development of the IAEA safeguards system, including through the timely payment of our assessed contributions and through European Union contributions. Ireland has also

contributed to the Technical Cooperation Fund. Ireland resumed its position as a member of the Board of Governors of IAEA in September 2014. Ireland consistently promotes universal compliance by States with their non-proliferation obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

15. Action 36 of the 2010 action plan encourages States parties to make use of multilaterally negotiated and agreed guidelines and understandings in developing their own national export controls. Ireland applies the understandings of the Zangger Committee and the guidelines developed by the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime when assessing applications for export licences. Ireland, as a State member of the European Union, is committed to implementing the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted in December 2003.

16. Action 42 of the 2010 action plan calls upon all States parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify the amendment to the Convention as soon as possible and encourages them to act in accordance with the objectives and the purpose of the amendment until such time as it enters into force. Ireland ratified the amendment to the Convention in September 2014.

17. Ireland adheres to the principles of the revised IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, as well as the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources approved by the Board of Governors of IAEA in 2004.

18. Ireland signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2005 and is finalizing the ratification procedures. Ireland encourages all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47-64)

19. Ireland provided financial support to IAEA for the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy in 2013. The funding was earmarked to cover integrated missions in three sub-Saharan African countries, which would assess existing national capacity and future needs in terms of cancer control. The initiative offered Ireland the opportunity to contribute to the third pillar of the Non-Proliferation Treaty — the right to peacefully use nuclear technology. By demonstrating a tangible benefit of adherence to the Treaty, the Programme's work also promotes the full implementation of the Treaty's provisions.

20. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, Ireland provided funding to the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, specifically the Safeguards Analytical Laboratories (the Nuclear Material Laboratory and the Environmental Sample Laboratory). The Nuclear Material Laboratory analyses nuclear material samples collected from all points of the nuclear fuel cycle and the results are used to verify States' nuclear material accountancy declarations.

21. Ireland has ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and is in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of

Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Ireland encourages all States to become parties to those conventions at the earliest possible opportunity.

22. Action 62 of the 2010 action plan encourages ongoing dialogue between coastal and shipping States regarding confidence-building measures concerning the maritime transport of nuclear materials. Ireland chaired the dialogue process between coastal and shipping States in 2012 and has continued to participate actively in its work.